

The Evolution of Qadhdhafi's Anti-Reagan Rhetoric, 1981-1986

(This material does not include Qadhdhafi's major speeches in April, May, and June of 1986, which were covered in a previous document.)

In his comments on President Reagan prior to 1986, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi most commonly focused on the President's acting career, claiming that while he had every respect for actors, no actor should aspire to be President of the United States. In 1982, there were several instances of harsher rhetoric. The U.S. action in Grenada prompted a message to the UN by Qadhdhafi calling for an "international alliance" to "invade the United States itself" and purge it of its "spirit of evil and Nazism." In 1986, the frequency and stridency of Qadhdhafi's anti-Reagan rhetoric increased markedly. In January, following U.S. officials' charges that Qadhdhafi had supported the terrorists who perpetrated the December 1985 Rome and Vienna airport attacks, Qadhdhafi referred to the President as an "Israeli dog" and as the "second Hitler." He has continued to use this type of language throughout 1986 in response to the U.S.-Libyan confrontations in the Gulf of Sidra and following the April U.S. airstrike against Libya.

Revolution Anniversary speech, Tripoli radio, 1 Sept 81

"We respect an actor as an actor and a singer as a singer, but to become the president of the greatest state on earth is a comedy. I respect all actors and singers when they stay in their profession. We cannot respect a president who becomes an actor--it is not his place and we cannot respect him. The citizen who gives his vote to an actor to become the president of the greatest state shows by this action that he is very backward and does not understand anything in the world."

Speech, Tripoli radio, 2 Mar 82

"The current U.S. president (indistinct passage) . . . is reviving facism in the world. He suffers from arrogance and powermania. He believes America can transform the whole world into slaves. Hitler at one time imagined that he could transform the whole world into slaves. The facist U.S. president believes that the whole world and especially the Arab land is within the U.S. sphere of influence. But there are some who tell him: You will see in the future that your empire will be defeated and will fail as facism and Nazism were defeated."

Interview, Vienna PROFIL, 21 Jun 82

On President Reagan: "He has changed a little, no doubt. At first, he was a 100 percent ignoramus as far as international relations are concerned. Today he grasps at least 25 percent of the world problems."

Speech, Tripoli radio, 18 Aug 82

"The United States currently is leading a modern crusade. The U.S. 6th Fleet is on a 10th crusade, or near enough. We regard the U.S. 6th Fleet as a 10th crusade, no different from the crusades against the East and against Islam."

Interview, AFRICA NOW, Feb 83

"(Interviewer) At what point did relations with the United States become what they are now?

(Qadhdhafi) I think this is all tied up with the increasing Zionist influence in America. Zionism got a grip on America at the beginning of the reign of Reagan and I think it was then, at that particular period."

Speech, Tripoli radio, 28 Mar 83

"All the world leaders I have met have said they are very alarmed and concerned so long as Reagan is in power in America, because peace is in danger and the world is in danger since it is obvious that the comic acting in the American Hollywood motion picture is the same as that being practiced now in the international stage by this actor."

Message to UN on Grenada, JANA, 25 Oct 83

"The arrival of people like Reagan to power in an aggressive country like the USA, is an indicator to the defeat of humanity and a retreat to the era of barbarism, law of the jungle, and the illogical. Nothing can rescue humanity and civilisation which are now being buried but an international alliance to invade the United States itself and impose the principles of humanity and freedom and justice as well as purge the spirit of evil and Nazism in the United States which has become a threat to the freedom of all the smaller nations and world peace."

Message to Asad and Junblat, JANA, 9 Feb 84

"If the American people prove incapable of curbing the madness of actor Reagan, we must all shoulder our responsibility to future generations and the world and use all the means of war that we possess to destroy the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean, in self defense."

Speech, Tripoli radio, 2 Mar 85

"Screw Reagan and America. We are a small country, but we declare this."

Speech, Tripoli radio, 9 Aug 85

"Reagan prepared this feeble-minded plan because he is stupid and not fit to be the head of state."

Press conference, Tripoli radio, 7 Nov 85

(Commenting on allegations that Washington was planning to overthrow his regime, Qadhdhafi said:)

"Any action involving my name and carried out would be tantamount to a liquidation. I believe this constitutes a grave violation of American law committed by the American president. He should be put on trial according to American law."

(Qadhdhafi's remarks about President Reagan over the next several weeks are in response to U.S. allegations about Libyan support for the Rome and Vienna airport terrorist attacks.)

News conference, JANA, 1 Jan 86

"There is nobody in this era who is more mad, silly, and unreasonable than Reagan. The one who is leading the world to war is in fact Reagan and the Israelis."

Press conference, Tripoli radio, 2 Jan 86

"The worst phenomenon is the existence of an actor ruling a superpower, such as America."

"There is nothing more crazy, trivial, and illogical than Reagan in this age. Those who are leading the world to war are Reagan and Israel."

Press conference, Tripoli TV, 5 Jan 86

President Reagan has "harmed the reputation of America because he has become like an Israeli dog. It is not fitting for the U.S. president to transform himself into an Israeli dog. Even with regard to what took place in Rome and Vienna, it concerns, in the final analysis, the Israelis. What has America got to do with that and the talk about revenge, retaliation, and reprisal? Unless of course the U.S. president considers himself to be an Israeli dog. This is not fitting for the Americans or the U.S. president. This is because the Israelis have other dogs, even if these dogs are of less stature than Reagan."

Interview, Belgrade TANJUG, 12 Jan 86

"If President Reagan came to this tent he'd change his opinion. He'd see that I'm no terrorist, that I don't live in a trench and have no hand-grenades and revolvers tucked behind my belt. The American president thinks I'm a man without a family, a man who never laughs."

News conference, Tripoli TV, 9 Jan 86

(On President Reagan's calling him "flaky:")

"I have not heard that Reagan is a doctor or a psychiatrist. I know that he was a bad actor."

"Reagan is a fool"

Speech, Tripoli TV, 15 Jan 86

"Reagan should be confronted with force and should be considered a war criminal."

"The U.S. president is a second Hitler. Why is all the world not condemning Nazism and considering Hitler to be a war criminal and all Hitler's men are now wanted for trial as war criminals? Likewise, mankind is now trying Reagan as a war criminal. There is no difference at all between Nazism and imperialism."

President Reagan is "Hitler no. 2."

"Now Reagan believes that he can play on the international theater as he used to act on the stage in Hollywood. He believes that he can transform the globe into a U.S. empire. We say to him: To hell with you!"

"It is inevitable for people now to form an alliance against Reagan--the second Hitler--against this new Nazism, against this new facism in order to destroy it."

Interview, Vienna KURIER, 23 Jan 86

"(Interviewer) There is a terrible war of words under way between you and President Reagan. One is calling the other a "barbarian," a "second Hitler," a "stinking rotten crusader," and an "aging third-class actor." Could you not tone it down a bit?

(Qadhdhafi) But this (laughs at length) is political rhetoric. Seriously, I stick to my opinion: Reagan is a "second Hitler." He wants to colonize the world by force--on the same pretext that Hitler used for occupying the Sudetenland: That he had to protect the people in this region. It is very important that you give this some thought. Hitler was finished, though, as soon as the other countries allied themselves against him with the Soviet Union. And Ronald Reagan must be finished the same way.

(Question) Do you mean "liquidated?"

(Qadhdhafi) I mean his era must come to an end; I don't mean "liquidate."

(Question) In other words, for you Reagan constitutes the actual problem, not the Americans?

(Qadhdhafi) The main problem is imperialist. But Ronald Reagan has undoubtedly driven imperialism to the most dangerous level.

(Question) Excuse me saying so, Colonel, but in the past few years I sometimes could not help feeling that you are actually cultivating something that one might call a hidden love-hate relationship with the United States.

(Qadhdhafi) Very well, I am going to tell you now how things stand. I like the Americans, as individuals and also as a nation. But I hate that country as an imperialist center. And I hate their foreign policy, especially under Ronald Reagan.

(Question) Then this leaves only the question: Would you, if worse came to worst, meet with this Ronald Reagan personally?

(Qadhdhafi) In principle I do not refuse such a meeting. I'll go a step further. Rather than having the world slide into a catastrophe, such a meeting would be a downright necessity for me. The problem is that to negotiate with Hitler was pointless--can one negotiate with the "second Hitler"?

Speech, VOGAH, 27 Jan 86

"Imagine, Reagan does not recognize that a black is a complete human being. . . . To hell with Reagan and to hell with the United States! Brothers, this is neo-Nazism--a new Hitler whose mentality we cannot change. This is because his mentality is extremely backward, extremely reactionary, fanatical, racist, and hostile to all mankind. He wants to be installed as God, he suffers from the complex of power and power mania. He suffers from a series of psychological complexes caused by nuclear power."

Interview, Tripoli TV, 29 Jan 86

"I personally have been subjected to various operations that were disclosed in America. They were preparing physical liquidation operations and assassinations against me at the order of Reagan, and implemented by the CIA. Reagan should have been put on trial as a criminal and violator of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. laws. He is a terrorist because he terrorizes the small peoples, like the Libyan people, and he is terrorizing the people of Nicaragua. He terrorized and occupied the people of Grenada because they are a small people. He also arms the Israelis."

"The question seems to be of a racist and crusader nature and Reagan is Hitler no. 2. This is a new imperialism, a new Nazism resurrected to

threaten world peace."

News conference, Tripoli TV, 7 Feb 86

"President Reagan is the new Hitler and any Israeli president is Mussolini. The Berlin-Rome Axis is the Washington-Tel Aviv axis."

Interview, Turin LA STAMPA, 11 Feb 86

"Reagan, Reagan. I try in vain to find a reason for his irresponsible stances. When he was elected, we believed that since he was old he would be wise. We believed that an actor is an artist and, as such, not an evil man. Instead--but perhaps the attack on him, illness, and age have damaged his arteries. Furthermore, I am convinced that his entourage, infiltrated by Zionists, is dominating him, exploiting his senility. Thus he seems to have wanted to transform the Mediterranean into a film set in order to show off in his blustering role. However, the Mediterranean is not Hollywood. Reagan's policy endangers peace. Reagan is playing with fire."

Speech, Tripoli TV, 28 March 86

"The butcher Reagan--we said from the very first day of his election that he is not fit to be a president. We respect him as an actor. We respect actors as actors in the profession they have chosen for themselves and for which they are equipped and qualified instinctively. But when the farcical Western democracy enables an actor, whose capabilities have been geared for acting and who has prepared himself to be an actor, to become president of a superpower, we said that he will be a catastrophe to the world and to international politics. What we have said has come true."

Interview, Rome ANSA, 15 Apr 86 (prior to raid)

"Speaking of a meeting with Reagan, I refuse and absolutely reject a meeting with Reagan and I will not negotiate with America because Reagan is crazy and I cannot negotiate with a crazy man."

Interview, London SUNDAY TODAY, 27 Apr 86

(Responding to a question on President Reagan's motivations:)

"There are psychological reasons, deep psychological reasons. . . . A spirit of crusade against the East, against Islam--an anti-Semitic feeling against the Arabs, because the Arabs are Semites. The true Semites are Arabs. Then he hates revolution, he hates socialism, he hates liberation struggles. He is a capitalist and a fanatic. I am still talking about the psychological aspect. He is a failed actor who became the president of a great power and he wants to show he can move fleets, big war machines. He is suffering from old age and from cancer. He wants to finish the world by the end of his life. Why should the

world stay after him? I have studied psychology and this analysis therefore has a basis. He has a special relationship with Thatcher--he wants to prove himself to her (laughs).

(Question) Prove himself as what? A man?

(Qadhdhafi) Yes, exactly (laughs). These are the psychological reasons for what he did. There are deep political reasons as well."

Interview, Rome ANSA, 16 Apr 86 (continuation)

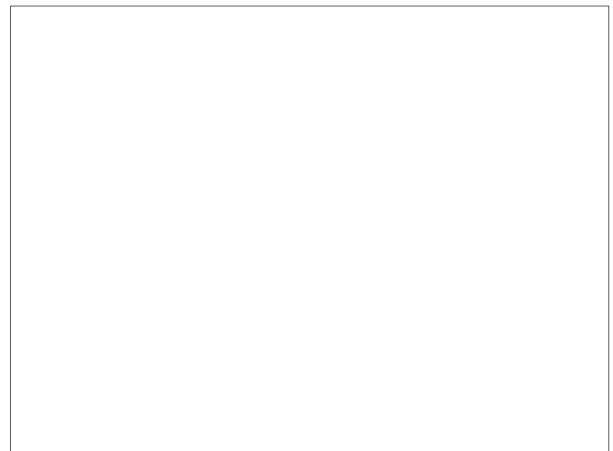
Reagan is "a madman, and I cannot negotiate with madmen." He should be "sent to a psychiatrist who would certainly find he is missing something."

Interview, Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I, 1 May 86

"The 10th crusade is now beginning. If the smoke of factories is covering up U.S. barbarism, the fire of Reagan's bombs has exposed this barbarism. In fact, it has become clear to all those who have a mind and conscience that those who are controlling the Atlantic are from a species which has nothing to do with man. Who is this man who accepts aggression against secure people? Who is this man who accepts the bombing of cities, universities, and hospitals? Who is this man who terrifies and kills women and children? Can such people be human beings and men? Both words mean civilization, understanding, respect, and response to the laws of the age concerning peoples' right to live and nations' right to choose their own path. This is the meaning of the human species, as defined by science and understood by people."

"They said Reagan tightened security around his children. We tell him that our morals do not justify killing children and that he should lift security around his children and leave them live their childhood in happiness because it is not their fault that their father is the killer of children. We do not punish one for others' faults. We are not cowards who kill children, the elderly, and the innocent."

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Speech, Tripoli radio, 28 August 1985

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NORTH AFRICA

Nations, nor any other state in the world would have anything to do with it. This is one people, one nation, one homeland, torn up and divided, which has the right to unite. We therefore must graduate, each time, thousands of officers in order to bring about the creation of an armed people.

There should be at least one or two million Libyan men and women capable of fighting any battle — battles of unity and liberation. The matter is not [words indistinct], play music and review these (?columns) and it seems that the scene is a classic and showy one, but it conceals the field command, the readiness to die, sweat, and give blood in order to bring this nation together. We shall not listen to any word, any propaganda nor submit to any pressures which prevent us from proceeding full steam ahead in building strength because they also are building strength and unprecedented means of destruction. They [words indistinct] us if we build up strength in self-defense. We want to enclose this talk in a legal and respected framework and that is that the strength we are building. We do not want to use to invade others. We are forced to build up strength because our own existence on our land is threatened. Our homes are threatened, our lives are threatened. They are challenging our flags and they want to bring them down from their Arab masts. This is what pushes us toward anger and hatred and to embark on suicide and consecrate everything for the building up of strength. We do not want homes, roads, electricity, bridges, or sweets. We divert everything to the building of strength in order to rescue the threatened existence.

When we are free, the danger to our existence is removed. We build whatever we want over the free land; we plant roses; we breed chickens, and we eat sweets. But before we eat sweets we must eat the kidneys of the enemies — the Zionists and the Americans and their reactionary supporters.

Who has degraded this nation by ridiculing it? The traitorous Arab rulers are the number one target. The coward does not sit with us. Let him go out [words indistinct]. He is on America's tables. Let him go, let him join as a drop in the ocean. Let him join imperialist America, the "superpower." If a stray dog joins, it will not become stronger. Let them go [words indistinct]. Things began to be realized in this battle. [Passage indistinct]

In spite of the enemies and in spite of what they say, we have decided to build up force and achieve Arab unity by force, and we call upon any Arab state capable of building up force to achieve it. We are the first to support it. If some one wants to unite the Arabian Peninsula by force we must support him. I would rather have one reactionary Arab state than 10 nonreactionary states.

If Algeria and Morocco are capable of uniting the Arab Maghreb by force, we will be the first to [support it]. If Egypt can put all the Arabs in the stable David by force, very well. Put all of us in the stable, and this nation become the nation of the stable — a nation which surrendered and is subdued. That is it: subdued because it is an existence in a regional form. We want it as a united subjugation, under the flag of unity. [Words indistinct] in our positions, regionalists and subdued, then why do they not unite and all become subdued? [Passage indistinct] If Egypt is able to spread its subjugation all over the Arab nation by force, then support it. This nation is subdued; let it be. Prepare your-

selves to change all these clothes of honor into dusty battle uniforms, and prepare yourselves to train the people [words indistinct] and to manufacture weapons until we are liberated.

It is clear that the closest one to Palestine is Husayn. [Passage indistinct] He was the first one to prostrate himself and capitulate. He goes to fight Iran and leaves Jerusalem which is near his house. [Passage indistinct] See how matters have now upside down. We [words indistinct] the agents of America of the Arabs. We strengthen our alliance with Iran and with Ethiopia and with all the forces which [words indistinct]. We fight on their side.

Are they afraid of Ethiopia? We consider Ethiopia an Arab country [words indistinct] and we [words indistinct] everything, and fight on her side to spite them.

They are afraid of Iran. We become [words indistinct]. They will never be able to occupy us. This land will be smoldering embers under their feet. They are not listening [words indistinct]. There they graduate thousands of officers. Who can control you? Is it reasonable that someone plans to control you? What orders given to you by any one of these dogs will you obey? Very well! These youth, men, and women, all this moral force and these material preparations are before me. Tomorrow someone aspires to come from abroad to control them with their tanks, aircraft, submarines, and land forces. What kind of sick imagination is this?

We have to prove that this is not Grenada. Let America and America's agents dream. On every occasion, we insist on graduating thousands of officers. Anyone who can deceive thousands of officers and hundreds of thousands of their soldiers, let him come. Anyone abroad [words indistinct]. This is mere sick imagination. Who can aspire to deceive this revolutionary, vigorous force? This is not [words indistinct] for the revolution, challenge, people, and the nation, and its conscience and will. There is only one who aspires to this. He is a crook and hireling, and [words indistinct] America and America's agents. (?They prepared) many hundreds of aircraft, a thousand ships to lead them on the high seas, and thousands of tanks, missile bases [words indistinct] the military power sufficient to enable us to defend.

Definitely, the new stage is the building of weapons, the manufacturing of weapons. [Words indistinct] the manufacturing of rockets and tanks. we will make tractors into tanks. The battle of challenge is a dangerous battle [words indistinct] this nation, [words indistinct] and a force which stems from inside, otherwise this nation will [words indistinct].

Yes, we [words indistinct] the force, the force with all its aspects, not only the force of tanks. First of all, there is the moral force, in addition to the economic and the military force. The military force is supported by the economic and moral forces. They are the two major arteries for supporting the military force. The moral artery and the economic artery.

I know that the people understand this talk, and are able to commit themselves and are able to give [words indistinct], because the people is part of a great nation and do not expect to be annihilated. It is not a weak and insignificant nation that can be annihilated. On the contrary, this is the nation (?of the future),